(b) the measures Government propose to take to increase the number of flights to cope with the rush of passengers; and

(c) whether Government are considering reduction of plane fare for the people of Tripura on account of geographical barriers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Only Indian Airlines and Alliance Air are operating air services on Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata sector as per the following details:

Indian Airlines

Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata 9 flights/week

Alliance AIR

Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata 3 flights/week

Indian Airlines also operates additional services on the route to cater to seasonal demand depending on resources available. The Government has also laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services for different regions of the country including North-East region.

(c) No, Sir. Fares on the services to/from Agartala are already much lower than the fares on other sectors.

Export of foodgrains

*229. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of foodgrains exported to various countries during the current year alongwith the names of such countries; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The total quantity and value of foodgrains (rice & wheat) exported during the current year (April, 2002) is as under:—

Item	Qty(MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
Basmati rice	16426	49.44
Non-Basmati rice	192688	117.89
Wheat	240427	114.34

(SOURCE: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

Some of the countries of export of Basmati rice, Non-basmati rice and wheat during April, 2002 are as under:

Basmati rice	—	UK, UAE, Belgium, Italy etc.
Non-basmati rice	—	Indonesia, Malaysia, Ivory Coast, South Africa, Singapore, Comoros etc.
Wheat	—	Bangladesh, Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam Soc. Republic, Sri Lanka, Indonesia etc.

Procurement of Tobacco from Karnataka

*230. SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKARAN:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity of tobacco purchased from tobacco farmers through Tobacco Board since 1998-99, year-wise and State-wise:

(b) whether Government are aware that Tobacco Board is acting in a partisan manner with regard to purchase of Tobacco from karnataka farmers;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to purchase tobacco on the basis of the States' production capacity; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Details of the quantity of tobacco purchased by the Tobacco Board since 1998-99 are as follows:

(Qunatity in Million Kilograms)

Year	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
1998-99	Nil	Nil
1999-2000	Nil	Nil
2000-01	0.03	Nil
2001-02	Nil	Nil